

Karratha

Creating jobs and opportunities
Delivering services for the West Pilbara





Seven Cities Karratha

© Government of Western Australia

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the traditional custodians throughout Western Australia and their continuing connection to the land, waters and community.

We pay our respects to all members of the Aboriginal communities and their cultures; and to Elders both past and present.

Contents

Premier’s vision 2

A strong regional hub for the West Pilbara 6

Economic and industry profile 10

Emerging opportunities 12

Creating jobs and opportunities 15

Industry development 16

Transport 18

Energy 20

Water 22

Environment 24

Delivering services for the Pilbara 26

Housing 28

Health 30

Education and training 32

Safe and inclusive communities 34



Seven Cities is about ensuring each of the seven **major regional centres** outside of Perth can be **everything they can be.**

Delivering quality services to communities across the State.

And ensuring **Western Australia** remains the **strongest economy** in the nation for generations to come.



Seven Cities is my vision for regional WA

Western Australia is the strongest economy in the nation and our regions have been central to our economic success.

As Western Australians, our regions also tell us who we are and where we've come from.

But our regions are also central to our future – whether we live in Perth, one of the seven regional cities outside of Perth or in the smaller communities these centres serve.

Across the State, traditional industries like mining, agriculture and tourism will continue to thrive.

But the new wave of economic opportunities are immense.

This includes becoming a renewable energy powerhouse, and making more things here.

These new industries will benefit all Western Australians, and continue to drive the national economy.

But they will all take place in our regions and be driven by the seven regional cities outside of Perth.

To seize these opportunities for all Western Australians, these seven cities must have the infrastructure, services and skilled local workers industry will need.

They must be great places to live and work, with thriving communities that attract people to our regions – and make them want to stay.

And they must have the capacity to service the needs of the smaller communities that surround them.





Baynton West, Karratha

Our Seven Cities vision will prioritise housing, but it will also deliver investments in health, education and community safety, as well as the energy, water, transport and industrial infrastructure necessary to make our new economic opportunities a reality.

Seven Cities is about ensuring each of our seven regional centres can be everything they can be, ensuring Western Australia remains the strongest economy in the nation for generations to come.

And the best place in the world to get a quality job, no matter where in the State we live.

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Roger Cook".

Roger Cook MLA
Premier of Western Australia



A strong regional hub for the West Pilbara

Karratha is a modern regional city and a primary economic and service hub.

Located in the west of the Pilbara region, it is a unique intersection of industry, stunning landscapes and World Heritage Listed Aboriginal rock art.

Karratha and the surrounding areas are home to diverse Aboriginal language and cultural groups, whose Country covers coastline, river systems and inland ranges that continue to shape settlement, culture and economic activity.

Its modern amenities, strong community spirit, and deep connection to the resources industry make Karratha a great place to raise a family and get a quality job.

Importantly, it is a regional hub which supports the economic

opportunities and social wellbeing of surrounding communities.

These include Roebourne, Dampier, Wickham, Point Samson, Onslow, Paraburdoo, and Tom Price.

As one of WA's Seven Cities, Karratha's future will be built on its existing strengths and a new wave of emerging opportunities.

These include becoming a renewable energy powerhouse, adding value to our traditional industries like mining and agriculture, and making more things here.

For Karratha specifically, these opportunities include its role as a highly liveable regional city and a central hub for services, workforce and investment.

To grow these industries and retain the local workforce they



Hearson Cove, Burrup

Karratha is defined by its spectacular marine environment and a role at the heart of Australia's most globally connected region.

depend on, we're providing additional support with a renewed investment in housing, health, education, infrastructure and community amenity.

As part of the Cook Government's Seven Cities vision, Karratha

will continue to play a vital role in strengthening regional Western Australia, ensuring we continue to diversify the WA economy so that it remains the strongest in the nation.

Stephen Dawson MLC
Minister for Regional
Development

**Amber-Jade
Sanderson MLA**
Minister for Pilbara

Kevin Michel MLA
Member for Pilbara



Budget highlights

The 2026–27 State Budget continues our support for WA families. Making investments to grow our economy, make more things here, and deliver on our priorities of jobs, health and housing.

This year's budget builds on our past commitments by investing in the services and infrastructure that regional WA needs.

Key investments for Karratha include:

- **Dampier Seawater Desalination** – \$606 million to deliver a desalination plant at Dampier in partnership with Rio Tinto.
- **Seven Cities GROH Build** – The delivery of 110 new homes for frontline workers in Karratha as a part of a statewide build of more than 500 Government Regional Officer Housing (GROH) homes, delivered in partnership with Rio Tinto, BHP and Hancock Prospecting. Delivered alongside a revamped Home Ownership Subsidy Scheme (HOSS), which will include shared equity to encourage government workers to purchase homes in the communities they work in.

- **Third round of Student Assistance Payments** – \$90 million will be invested to deliver a third round of the Western Australian Student Assistance Payment, which is delivering \$150 for each primary and kindergarten student and \$250 for each secondary school student.
- **Fuel Support Payment** – \$198 million to offer a \$100 payment to all Western Australians with a valid driver's licence.



Economic and industry profile

Karratha is the economic engine room of the West Pilbara, anchoring one of Australia's most significant regional economies. As the hub for major resource and energy operations, the city produces a Gross Regional Product of more than \$15 billion and supports more than 9,500 jobs.

The local economy is underpinned by iron ore export facilitation,

gas and energy production, manufacturing, logistics and construction, complemented by strong service-based industries including health, education, retail, accommodation and government services. Together, these sectors support daily life in the city while servicing surrounding towns, remote communities and globally connected export industries.





This breadth creates a resilient and layered economy – one that balances industrial scale services with essential services and long-term employment. With continued investment, diversification and infrastructure growth, Karratha is well positioned as a city of confidence, opportunity and economic strength for the Pilbara and the nation.

Key economic facts:

Gross Regional Product
(Karratha): **\$15.196 billion**

Gross Regional Product
(Pilbara): **\$90.601 billion**

Jobs (Karratha): **9,594**

Jobs (Pilbara): **59,782**

Population (Karratha): **19,659**

Population (Pilbara): **62,170**



Emerging opportunities

Looking ahead, Karratha and the Pilbara are well positioned to support emerging industry opportunities that will create jobs and strengthen the region's economic base. These include:

Renewable Energy, building on Karratha's established industrial hubs to support demand for renewable energy generation and battery storage, as the region plays a central role in Australia's energy transition and sustainable industrial growth.

Natural resources – drawing on the region's rich resources and existing developments, new industry opportunities exist across natural gas, iron ore and salt.

Green iron and value added processing, including low emission processing and production of industrial chemicals such as ammonia, hydrogen and urea.

Advanced manufacturing, such as the manufacture, assembly and maintenance of mining and rail equipment that service operations across the Pilbara.



Gemco Rail manufacturing

Tourism and visitor economy growth, leveraging proximity to the UNESCO World Heritage Murujuga Cultural Landscape, the Dampier Archipelago, rivers and gorges, which can support nature-based, cultural and ecotourism experiences.

State Government investment in industrial precincts, housing, power, water security and transport connectivity positions Karratha to diversify its economy while continuing to anchor long-term growth, jobs and regional resilience in the Pilbara.



Creating jobs and opportunities



Industry development

Growing the Pilbara

Industrial land development in Karratha underpins employment and investment across the broader Pilbara region, supporting manufacturing, mining, construction, logistics and emerging industries that operate well beyond the townsite.



What we're delivering

- **Passed the State Development Bill** to provide investment certainty and accelerate project and industrial precinct development.
- **Strategic Industrial Areas (SIA)** – Facilitated through the \$1 billion Strategic Industries Fund, ongoing planning and enabling works to unlock largescale industrial land at Maitland and Anketell SIAs suitable for manufacturing, processing, energy and transition industries, creating capacity for new investment and long term employment.
- **Pilbara Hydrogen Hub** – \$140 million investment, including \$70 million from the Commonwealth, to establish a globally significant hydrogen hub in the Karratha region, supporting new clean energy industries, jobs and export opportunities.
- **\$6.9 million** to build 100 iron ore railcar wagons, plus a further \$1 million toward the Rail Collaboration Centre in Karratha.
- **\$2 million** to support the Yuri Renewable Hydrogen Ammonia Plant.
- **Perdaman Urea Plant** – State Government support has assisted in the delivery of the \$6 billion Urea Plant – Creating long term jobs in Karratha and reducing Australia's reliance on imported fertiliser.

Transport

New investment

Fuel Support Payment –

\$198 million to offer a \$100 payment to all Western Australians with a valid driver's licence.

Regional Airfare Zone Cap –

Ongoing support for the Regional Airfare Zone Cap Scheme amid increasing fuel costs.

\$113.5 million for road maintenance and upgrades throughout WA.

\$33.1 million contribution to the nationally coordinated Fuel Excise Relief Program and a further \$4.5 million through deferred up-lift in heavy vehicle charges, supporting industry in the Pilbara.



Manuwarra Red Dog Highway

What we're delivering

- **Port of Dampier multi-user wharf** – \$355.7 million to deliver a multi-user wharf at Port of Dampier, increasing capacity for bulk and general cargo and supporting the movement of resources, energy products and materials critical to the Pilbara and national economy.
- **Regional Pensioner Travel Card** – A further \$100 increase, bringing the total card value to \$775 per year, supporting older residents across the Pilbara to stay connected.
- **Regional Airfare Zone Cap** – Capped airfares for regional residents travelling to Perth, including Karratha to Perth.
- **Road network and freight efficiency** – Ongoing upgrades to key freight and access routes supporting industrial precincts, port operations and townsites, through the \$250 million Regional Road Safety Program, improving safety and reliability for heavy vehicles and local commuters.

Growing the Pilbara

- Port and freight infrastructure in Dampier and Karratha underpins supply chains across the West Pilbara, supporting resource operations, housing and construction activity and emerging industries servicing inland and coastal areas.
- Road connectivity enables workforce mobility across the region, supporting communities from Onslow to inland Pilbara operations that rely on Karratha as a service and transport hub. The \$380 million Manuwarra Red Dog Highway will be critical to making a more efficient regional road network for both industry and residents of the region.



Energy

New investment

- **Energy Ahead** - \$16 million to extend delivery of Energy Ahead to provide energy efficiency upgrades and education for up to 10,000 low income households.
- **\$30 million** to top up the Investment Attraction Fund for a second round of grants through the New Energies Industries Funding Stream.

What We're Delivering

- **WA Residential Battery Scheme** – Providing households with rebates of up to \$5,000 towards the cost of a household battery, plus no interest loans of up to \$10,000 for eligible households, supporting energy resilience and participation in renewable energy.
- **Energy Infrastructure** – Investing \$8 million across the Boodarie and Maitland SIAs to complete common user substation site selection and design works.
- **Ngarluma Green Energy Park** – \$2.7 million to support the Ngarluma Aboriginal Corporation to establish and activate its first Green Energy Park, advancing Aboriginal economic participation and reinforcing Western Australia's ambition to be a renewable energy powerhouse.
- **Pilbara Energy Transition** – Working with the Commonwealth Government to unlock \$3 billion in concessional loans to support the Pilbara Energy Transition.

Growing the Pilbara

Energy system investment in Karratha underpins the Pilbara's role as a cornerstone of the State's energy system, supporting households, industry and major transition projects.

Expanding clean energy infrastructure enables new industries and strengthens regional resilience.



Water

New investment

- **Dampier Seawater Desalination** - \$606 million to deliver a desalination plant at Dampier in partnership with Rio Tinto, plus \$45 million to connect the plant into the West Pilbara Water Supply scheme.
- **Water infrastructure** - \$75 million investment in water and wastewater infrastructure services to facilitate residential lot development.
- **Regional Water Source Fund** - \$52.9 million to establish a Regional Water Source Fund for water source planning and investigation in the regions.
- **\$7.9 million** to upgrade Harding Dam in the West Pilbara and secure water supply in the region.



Dampier, Desalination Plant

What we're delivering

Millstream Aquifer sustainability partnership – \$12.4 million to support the long-term sustainability of Millstream Aquifer, through a partnership between Water Corporation, Yindjibarndi Aboriginal Corporation and Department of Water & Environmental Regulation.

Pilbara water planning acceleration – \$4.2 million to accelerate water planning across the region, including for the City of Karratha, supporting economic development and enhancing future water supply for towns, industry and critical infrastructure.

Growing the Pilbara

Secure and sustainable water supply underpins economic growth in the Pilbara, supporting energy, resources, manufacturing and service industries centred around Karratha.

- **Investment in desalination,** aquifer sustainability and water planning ensures the region can support population growth, industrial diversification and long-term resilience in a drying climate like the \$94m Onslow desalination plant in partnership with industry.

- **Regional water and power price subsidy** – Part of a \$3.9 billion statewide commitment to keep regional water prices aligned with metropolitan prices, benefiting Karratha households and businesses.

Environment

New investment

\$24.7 million to continue biosecurity and animal disease preparedness work.

\$8.5 million towards a Fisheries Support Package, including funding for the enhanced science program and upgrades to the FishCatchWA app.

What we're delivering

- **Murujuga Cultural Landscape**
– World Heritage listing.
Supported by the State Government, the Murujuga rock art landscape on the Burrup Peninsula was listed as a UNESCO World Heritage site on 11 July 2025, recognising its outstanding cultural value and strengthening ongoing and long-term protection.
- **\$11 million** to expand Murujuga Rock Art Monitoring Program.
- **\$14.9 million** to support the creation of Fortescue Marsh Nature Reserve.
- **Conzinc Bay Road** –
\$24.3 million State commitment for the construction of a low environmental impact road into Murujuga National Park at Conzinc Bay.
- **Aboriginal Ranger Program expansion** –
\$20 million statewide, supporting Aboriginal land management, employment and cultural connection across the State, including in the Pilbara.

Growing the Pilbara

The West Pilbara's natural and cultural environment is one of its greatest assets, harbouring globally significant rock art and strong and enduring cultural connection to Country, as well as one of the State's most biodiverse marine environments, hundreds of islands, coral reefs, vast mangrove forests and a spectacular rugged landscape of rivers, gorges and pools.

- Environmental investment supports conservation, joint management and Indigenous land stewardship while strengthening ecocultural tourism, education and research opportunities.

- Protecting Country while enabling responsible development ensures the region can grow in a way that respects cultural heritage and maintains and restores environmental values central to the identity and lifestyle of the Pilbara.

Murujuga Cultural Landscape



Delivering services for the Pilbara



Housing

New investment

Seven Cities GROH Build - The delivery of 110 new homes for frontline workers in Karratha as a part of a statewide build of more than 500 Government Regional Officer Housing (GROH) homes, delivered in partnership with Rio Tinto, BHP and Hancock Prospecting. Delivered alongside a revamped Home Ownership Subsidy Scheme (HOSS), which will include shared equity to encourage government workers to purchase homes in the communities they work in.

Regional Housing Support Fund - \$50 million top-up to the Regional Housing Support Fund, increasing the fund's value to \$75 million.

Social and affordable houses - \$1 billion for the construction of social and affordable housing dwellings.

\$593 million for 500 shared equity dwellings, 165 social housing dwellings, refurbishment of properties and land acquisition.

\$297 million tax package - to support first home buyers and boost housing supply, including First Home Owner duty concessions, increased First Home Owner Grant cap, and an extension of the Off-the-Plan Transfer Duty Concession.



Growing the Pilbara

Housing supply in Karratha supports the workforce that services communities and industries across the West Pilbara, including health, education, policing and energy.

The State Government investment is supporting housing at scale, strengthening population stability, workforce retention and long term liveability in one of Western Australia's most economically important regions.

What we're delivering

- **The Pilbara Housing Supply Office** – A \$1.3 million investment has been established in the Pilbara to work directly with the community and industry to further address barriers to housing supply in the region.
- **Residential land and precinct planning** – \$43.2 million targeted investment to support residential land supply and community infrastructure at Mulataga, facilitating and strengthening housing availability for workers and families who support key regional industries.
- **\$13 million** for 51 lots at Karratha's Madigan at Baynton West including social homes and additional GROH housing.

Health

What we're delivering

- **Mental Health Step-up Step-down Facility** – a \$19.7 million facility in Karratha to support mental health services in the region.
- **Patient Assisted Travel Scheme** – \$18.5 million statewide to increase the fuel subsidy from 25 cents to 40 cents per kilometre, reducing the cost of travel for patients in the region needing to access specialist care.

- **Renal services planning** – \$500,000 to support planning for the expansion of renal services in Karratha, including an 8-bed dialysis facility and a new patient hostel, enabling more people to receive treatment closer to home.

New investment

\$214.1 million for an uplift to WA Health's statewide maintenance programs.

\$143 million for additional investment in medical equipment and imaging replacement program throughout WA.

WA Country Health Service – \$68.6 million for additional funding to the WA Country Health Service to maintain regional palliative care, renal care, cancer and eye services, and continued support programs.

\$43.8 million investment in community mental health and alcohol and other drugs services.



Growing the Pilbara

Karratha plays a critical role in supporting healthcare access for communities and workforces across the West Pilbara, particularly in remote and high growth areas.

Investment in specialist services, telehealth and renal planning reduces travel, improves continuity of care and strengthens long term health outcomes for families, workers and communities across the region.

Education and training

New investment

Third round of Student Assistance Payments – \$90 million will be invested to deliver a third round of the Western Australian Student Assistance Payment, which is delivering \$150 for each primary and kindergarten student and \$250 for each secondary school student.

\$145.6 million to meet training enrolment demand, and to continue discounted fee settings, including lower fee and Fee-Free training courses to the end of 2027 including at campuses in Karratha, Tom Price and Roebourne.

\$219 million uplift for school maintenance throughout Western Australia.

We've delivered

- ✓ **\$93 million** Roebourne District High School redevelopment.
- ✓ **\$31.7 million** upgrade to Karratha Senior High School.

What we're delivering

- **School Breakfast Program**
– \$28 million statewide to provide free breakfasts five days a week at more than 640 schools, including schools in the Pilbara.
- **Country Week Assistance Program** – \$8 million statewide supporting regional students to participate in key cultural and sporting events.



Growing the Pilbara

Schools, training providers and TAFE services in Karratha support students from across the West Pilbara, particularly for senior secondary education, vocational training and apprenticeships.

Investment in fee-free TAFE and modern training equipment supports the skilled workforce required for housing, construction, energy and industrial projects across the region.

Safe and inclusive communities

What we're delivering

- **Community and sporting infrastructure** – Delivering four new outdoor covered courts at the Karratha Netball Association, supporting participation, inclusion and community wellbeing.
- **Family and domestic violence support** – Part of a \$26.4 million investment in 2024–25 to strengthen responses to family and domestic violence across regional WA, including boosting Family and Domestic Violence Response Teams in Karratha.
- **Safe at Home program** – Part of \$11.5 million statewide to support victim survivors to stay safely in their homes, with the program expanded to Karratha.
- **Financial counselling services** – \$3 million statewide to uplift baseline funding for financial counselling services, including services in Karratha, Hedland, Newman and Roebourne.
- **Community safety infrastructure** – \$2.3 million statewide for additional CCTV to combat anti-social behaviour, including new cameras in Karratha.
- **Regional police recruits** – \$15.6 million to redevelop accommodation at the WA Police Academy, providing free residential accommodation for regional recruits and the option to be posted to their home districts.

New investment

\$421 million for child protection services plus \$46.3 million to boost support for foster and grandcarers.

\$288.1 million as part of Thriving Kids for children aged 8-and-under with developmental delays or autism.

\$61.4 million to continue the Target 120 early intervention program for young people coming into repeated contact with WA Police, including in Newman and Karratha.

\$60.7 million for road safety awareness and education programs.



Growing the Pilbara

Investment in safety, family support, community infrastructure and emergency services in Karratha strengthens liveability and resilience for communities across the West Pilbara.



